









# ALFALFA.

The alfalfa of California, derived from Chili, is understood to be simply the lucerne of Europe (*Medicago sativa*), differing in habit of growth, if at all, only as a result of difference of soil and climate. It is a plant allied to the clover family. Landon describes it as "a deep-rooting perennial plant, sending up numerous small and clover-like shoots, with pale or violet smokes of flowers." He speaks of it as a native of the south of Europe, of unknown antiquity in Spain, France, and Italy, but extensively grown also in Asia and in the province of Lima, South America. The Columbian discovered it as the choicest of all fodder plants, because it continues to yield for many years without being renewed, and affords four, five, and six crops in a year. Flint states that it was brought from Media to Greece about five hundred years before the Christian era, whence it was introduced into the Roman empire to the south of France, where it has ever continued to be a favorite forage plant. The more recent name, alfalfa, comes from South America, where, according to Flint, it grows wild in the utmost luxuriance in the pampas of Buenos Ayres. It is much cultivated in Chili, from whence it was introduced into California, and from which supplies of seed are still largely obtained.

Of the extent of its uses and the need of precaution in using it, Europe, Landon says: "The principal and most advantageous practice is that of soiling horses, neat cattle, and hogs, but as a dry fodder it is also capable of affording much assistance, and is especially good for ewes and lambs, may be of great value in particular cases. All agree in extolling it as food for cows, whether in a green or dried state. It is said to be much superior to clover, both in increasing the milk and butter and in improving its flavor. In its use in a green state, care is necessary not to give the animal too much at a time, especially when it is moist, as they may be blown with it, in the same way as with clover and other green food of luxuriant growth."

Mr. Wyoff says: "For bulch cows it is superior to any other hay, except the second crop." He thinks it too much good hay for this purpose, it should not be cut before it has been in bloom ten days. He states that it was first grazed by cattle and sheep in the spring, while it is growing rapidly and is so abundant that they can gorge themselves quickly, it sometimes gives them the "bloat," and is often fatal consequences. When grazed closely, no such evil occurs. He represents that it is benefited by being grazed moderately, as soon as the growth is sufficient and the ground dry enough, and that it covers the soil with a thick mat to prevent the loss of stock with which to graze it the first year.

Mr. C. F. Reed, speaking officially as president of the California State Board of Agriculture, states that when it is in bloom it makes hay of good quality for stock of all kinds, but especially for milk cows; that, according to the testimony of good farmers, cows taken from the native grass and pastured on it will increase in product of milk, butter, and cheese from 10 to 20 per cent, and that, in the opinion of the best of sheep growers, sheep grazed on it in a constant green condition will be free from the diseases of the skin so prevalent in California.

It has two characteristics which especially adapt it to regions subject to long continued hot and dry weather. These are its very profuse and rapid growth, by which, after being cut, it very quickly covers the surface by a thick green coat, and the tendency of the plant to which it tends to grow in a deep soil, or in the Klamath Valley, California, the roots go down to the water line, which is 12 to 20 feet below the surface. This accords with a statement published in our annual report for 1871, page 427, that, where a farmer had exposed a perpendicular section of an alfalfa field, the roots were found extending down to the water line, which was from 12 to 20 feet below the surface. In this country the climate is generally favorable to its production, from the extreme south to the latitude of Washington, and presents a remarkably luxuriant growth in the grounds of the Department of Agriculture. Farther north it thrives well only in favorable localities. It is reported as doing well in Nevada, and in the mountains of the Colorado. It will grow on a compact clay soil, or on a shallow soil with a hard pan below it. The seed requires a shallow covering, after deep and thorough pulverization of the soil. Broadcast sowing and drilling are both practiced, but if the land is rich, the latter method is decidedly preferable, as it admits of careful culture until the crop is able to displace the weeds.

The culture in California was begun on a basis of 15 pounds of seed per acre, but the results of trial for a series of years have clearly proved that a larger amount is better, not less than 20 pounds, and from that up to 30. While this seedling results in coarse stalks, invites weeds to compete for the mastery of the field, and exposes the surface to the baking influence of the hot sun and drying winds, thick sowing operates as a preventive of all these evils, and the culture of alfalfa is generally directed in this way.

In districts subject to spring frosts, defer sowing until there is no longer any danger from this quarter. Sow deep, narrow mellow and fine brush the seed in, and follow with medium weight roller. The seed should not be put in deep, and it is desirable that it be well covered (by lumps, however), and that the fine soil be brought all about the seed; brushing and light rolling will do this. If the above principles and precepts are properly considered and followed, and the seed receives such subsequent treatment as is necessary, a medium crop will be secured, and will not need reseeded for ten years. When it has made a good stand, cut it, but do not draw too hard on it; the first seven two crops should satisfy you. After this you may safely increase your demand, cutting as often as it makes a fair stand; but you should bear in mind the fact that some return should be made in the form of fertilizers. Alfalfa is a free grower, but do not ride it to death.

Prime alfalfa seed was quoted at San Francisco in the spring of 1875 at \$25 a bushel, and a poor quality, while an inferior grade could be bought as low as 9 cents per pound. The amount of seed required per acre varies somewhat with the soil and climate.

Alfalfa will thrive without irrigation where any cultivated grass or grain will succeed; and it is claimed that it is the most valuable soil after the roots have had time to work down to the water level, requiring from one to two years, it will thrive without any irrigation in the driest and hottest climate. The *Pacific Press* affirms that for this reason it has already "become the favorite" and will become the standard grass of California. Mr. Everett reports that in the Kern Valley, where all crops require irrigation, alfalfa needs but little after the first year, and none after the second.

The increase of area in alfalfa in California is very rapid, and the crop is already of considerable money value, though only affording a small suggestion of its ultimate value. In no other valley lands of the State, but is especially adapted to the southern portion of the great interior basin. From the statement of our correspondent in Kern County, Mr. S. J. Swett, we infer that not much less than 10,000 acres are already devoted to this crop.

Mr. L. B. Reeder owns a farm near Bakersville, which in 1874 was laid on shares. It contains 135 acres—64 in alfalfa, 51 in vineyard or orchard, and 70 in lumber or uncultivated. A part of the alfalfa was cut for a year past, but the rest was left to grow, and the milk was sold at 50 cents per gallon, and a part let for rearing at \$2.50 per month per head. He reports that the net profits of the farm amounted to \$15,000, or nearly 20 per cent. its value, at \$100 per acre, with less than half in cultivation. Mr. John Shirley Ward, of San Bernardino County, reports the following results of his first year's experience with alfalfa. His ranch, in 1874, had 7 acres in it, and he sowed 60 acres in addition. From the 7 acres he sold 2400 worth of hay, and from 5 of the same sowed seed, which, after deducting toll for threshing, amounted to 1,200 pounds, or 12 cents per pound, making the gross income \$268.50. The entire expense was a little less than \$100, leaving about \$167 per acre as net profit. Reporting the first of year, 1875, he states that he had already put up about 100 tons of well-cured hay, and a part let for rearing at \$2.50 per month per head, being \$143 per acre. That was worth in the stack, not less than \$10 per ton. He estimates that 100 acres of his ranch will yield at least 500 tons of

good alfalfa hay. He practices irrigation. As Australia, the grazing capacities of alfalfa, he states that in the fall of 1874 he grazed for twenty-two days on 20 acres 1,500 sheep. Beginning at the upper end of the field, the water was turned on each successive section as soon as it was eaten off. At the end of twenty-two days, when the sheep had reached the last section, the new growth on the first was 10 to 12 inches deep.

Advanced agriculturists in the cotton States have strong faith, corroborated by successful trials on a limited scale, that this plant is adapted to their climate, soil, and wants, and that its general introduction would contribute vastly to their agricultural prosperity. There are indications that the foothold it has already gained in various localities in those States will result, and that soon, in rapidly extending its culture.

Our correspondent in Dallas County, Texas, reports that, upon trial, alfalfa proves to be admirably adapted to the black prairie soil of that region. It withstands well both the drought of summer and the cold of winter, keeping green all the year round. Last season he cut a crop on the 10th of April, a second crop from the same field on the 30th of May, a third on the 4th of June, and each crop averaged about two tons per acre.—*Report of the Commissioner of Agriculture.*

## BORN.

In Colorado Springs, November 24, 1877, to the wife of J. F. Pracht, a daughter.

In Colorado Springs, December 1, 1877, to the wife of J. M. Somerville, a son.

## MARRIED.

In Colorado Springs, Wednesday evening, December 5, 1877, at the residence of the bride's parents, Rev. R. T. Cross officiating; Mr. Frank H. Chaney and Miss Emma A. Kennedy, both of Colorado Springs.

In Colorado Springs, December 6, 1877, at the residence of the bride's mother, Rev. A. A. Stuy officiating; Mr. Robert R. Taylor and Miss Ida Newman, all of Colorado Springs.

## DIED.

In Colorado Springs, Thursday, December 6, 1877, Charles M. Moody, aged 18 years. Mr. Moody was born in Naples, Maine.

## ADVERTISED LETTERS.

List of letters remaining in the post-office at Colorado Springs, Colorado, for the week ending December 6, 1877:

Adams, Mrs. G. H. Haines, Mrs. Sarah Bell, Chas. A. Hall, Mrs. G. B. Chandler, Mrs. G. B. Martin, G. W. Davis, M. E. Robinson, Frank Devine, Mrs. A. L. Strode, Mr. I. N. Dixon, J. A. Walker, Mrs. S. C. Dancy, M. W. Warren, P. S. Dancy, G. F. Wright, Mrs. Jennie Johnson, C. M. Wheat, Dr. Thomas Foreign—Barr, Lihleider.

To obtain any of these letters the applicant must call for "Advertised Letters," and give the rate of this list, not call on for within thirty days, they will be sent to the Dead Letter Office.

## BUSINESS ITEMS.

CHAS. HOLLOWELL, agent for the sale of lots in PARRISH'S ADDITION to Colorado Springs.

Trunks and Valises—A large stock just received by D. J. Martin, cheaper than the cheapest.

Those Fine Wedding Suits just received at Robbins & Dow's.

Wall Paper at Bradbury's, North Tejon St.

The line of Furnishing Goods at E. Leonard & Co.'s is without dispute the largest and best assorted ever brought to this city.

Chickens, Turkeys, Roast Turkey, Canned and Beef at LINCOLN'S.

Robinson's Museum will have a full stock of Stationery soon.

Fine heavy-weight suitings \$35, at Stearns' emporium.

Those who have tried the France coal say it is the best in market.

Bush sells Apples by the barrel or pound.

Deep Sea Oysters and Fresh Fish at LINCOLN'S.

Finest assortment of Cook and Parlor Stoves at G. S. Barnes.

Courts & Welch are ready to take contracts for any kind of masonry, or will plaster, repair, or calcimine walls, etc. All the work they do is guaranteed to be first class. If you are going to build, get them to give you figures.

What constitutes a first class coal stove? Weight, Quality of Iron, and Workmanship. All of these requisites are combined in the highest degree in the celebrated "Charter Oak" stoves. Don't forget that DUKKOR & LEE's Hardware Store is the only place in town where they can be found. They are the best consequently the cheapest. Ask any of your neighbors who have used them what kind of stoves they are.

Bradbury has the largest assortment of Wall Paper in town.

More Clothing and Furnishing Goods received yesterday at Robbins & Dow's.

Preserved Ginger and Orange in glass at LINCOLN'S.

The highest price paid for Railroad Tickets, and Tickets always on hand at Robinson's Museum.

Call and get measured for an 88 pair of pants at Stearns', on Huerafano Street.

Dress goods, fancy goods, notions and clothing at bed rock prices at O. T. BARKER'S.

"Charter Oak" cook stoves. "The best and heaviest cook stove ever made." Also other cook stoves from same celebrated manufactory, at DUKKOR & LEE's Hardware Store.

Bismark Moving at G. S. Barnes.

Since moving into our New Brick Stable we are better prepared to accommodate our customers than ever before. We are hiring Livery and boarding horses at rates that defy competition. Give us a call and be convinced. H. Bacon & Son, Brick Stable, Pike's Peak Ave. Colorado Springs.

Home-made Mince Meat at 20 cents per lb. at Bush's Bakery.

Go and see Bradbury's magnificent stock of Wall Paper.

Trunks for everybody at E. Leonard & Co.'s. Large and small, cheap and expensive, fine and common—come and see the stock.

Russian Caviar, French Peas, Chocolate Paste at LINCOLN'S.

Goods of all kinds are being received daily at the very Cheap Cash Store of Robbins & Dow.

Another lot of fresh Cranberries to be sold cheap by J. BUSH.

Just received: New and elegant patterns of Wall Paper and Bordering at Bradbury's, North Tejon Street.

Heating and Cook stoves at DUKKOR & LEE'S.

Dessert Prunes in glass and tin at LINCOLN'S.

Some very choice Cloaks and Shawls have just been received at Robbins & Dow's.

Examining the fine stock of Wall Paper at Bradbury's before purchasing elsewhere.

Equinox Base Burner at G. S. Barnes.

Acorn, Peaches, Prunes, and Apples at East at LINCOLN'S.

Wall Paper and Bordering of every description at Bradbury's.

Prof. Robinson's class in assaying, will meet the first Monday in December at 3 o'clock, at his museum. The course will be on the assay of gold, silver, steel, and copper. Terms \$25. No extra charge for fuel, chemicals, minerals, or the use of apparatus. The assayer of tools to complete the course will receive upon the application of the student. If we be permitted the use of the apparatus until we be satisfied that he can conduct an assay himself. All those wishing books on geology, mineralogy and assaying will care to order this week or the first of next at the museum.

Two cars of Stoves just received at G. S. Barnes.

Just received: A new stock of youths' and boys' clothing at D. J. Martin's.

Wall Paper—the largest stock in Southern Colorado at Bradbury's.

Everything in the shape of Hardware, Stoves, and Tinware, cheap for cash, at DUKKOR & LEE'S.

Throw away the old hat and come to E. Leonard & Co.'s and get a fashionable new one. The price ranges from \$1.00 to \$5.00, to any figure you choose. Caps in endless variety.

Get a Cactus Cane at Robinson's Museum.

Extra fine heavy-weight for \$40 a suit at Stearns', the Huerafano Street tailor.

Anchovy Sauce and Paste at LINCOLN'S.

TOYS!! TOYS!! TOYS!!! just being received for the holidays at Robbins & Dow's by the thousands, and will be sold cheap for cash.

C. STOCKBRIDGE, REAL ESTATE AND LOAN AGENT. All commissions promptly attended to.

FIRST CLASS PRINTING CHEAP, at room 7, Union Block, corner Tejon street and Pike's Peak avenue.

PRIVATE INSTRUCTION given in Geology, Assaying, Chemistry, and kindred subjects. Respectfully, F. KERR, Prof. of Chem. and Geol.

KINDERGARTEN. Miss Fessenden can receive a few more children into her class in the west room of the building on the northwest corner of Tejon and Kiowa Streets. Hours from 9 to 12.

STEEL FENCE-WIRE. A new article, best ever made. Farmers and ranchmen try it, at G. S. Barnes.

SPORTSMEN'S DEPOT. Every variety of Rifles and breech-loading Shot guns always on hand. Revolvers, Ammunition, and all shooting material. Largest stock of Rifles, and Guns in the State. Out-side of Denver, which will be sold at strictly Eastern rates. The cheapest house in the State, at C. Stockbridge's, next door to First National Bank, where he will not be undersold. Call and see his stock before purchasing.

CIGARS!! CIGARS!! CIGARS!!! Largest stock and greatest variety in the city. Imported cigars always on hand, and all smokers' materials at C. Stockbridge's, next door to First National Bank. Try them and you will not go elsewhere for cigars.

HORSE-SHOING. T. A. Hay never injures a horse when shoeing him, and he does the job in the best possible manner, as any customer will testify. Sign of the Big Horse Shoe on Huerafano Street.

RIGGS' SPRING WATER. The ditch water sold by Robinson, I consider no better than second-class water, and the class irrigating. In order that all may be supplied with the purest and sweetest water in the State at the very lowest possible price, I have reduced the price of the water delivered daily from Riggs' Springs, to twenty-five cents per barrel. Orders may be left with Chas. Stockbridge.

FOR RENT—Mrs. Mellen's house at Manitou, furnished. Apply to Chas. Hollowell, Real Estate Agent.

WANTED—To get up a "Miners' Club" to go East, leaving Pueblo December 18, 1877. Clubs of five can go at reduced rates. Leave names at GAZETTE office.

COUNTY WARRANTS WANTED—By Chas. Hollowell, Tejon Street, opposite the Postoffice.

FOR SALE—The Brick yard property opposite Roman's beer garden, consisting of eight and one-third acres, frame house and other improvements. This property can be had very cheap. A capital opportunity for some one to engage in the manufacture of brick—for which the demand at present is greater than the supply. Apply to A. L. LAWTON.

HORSES and saddles for sale cheap or will trade for hay, at Bacon & Son's new brick livery stable, Pike's Peak Avenue.

WANTED—One black Pony, 13½ hands high, broke to saddle and harness. Must be gentle, sound, and not over eight years old. Apply at Dr. HORE'S office.

FOR RENT—Furnished rooms, with or without board.

FOR SALE—Brick house containing five rooms, on Cycharas Street. Barn with room for 4 horses and hay, coral, good well; two lots, 50x100 feet each, and 2½ acres of ground. Very cheap. Enquire of A. L. LAWTON.

FOR SALE OR TRADE—A large, fine family carriage, nearly new. Will be sold cheap for cash or will trade for horse buggy.

DR. T. G. HORN.

FOR SALE—The best sheep ranch in El Paso county; also a small flock of young sheep, mostly ewes. Apply to Chas. Hollowell, or address me at Colorado Springs.

M. J. WILLY.

WANTED—County warrants. C. E. WELLSLEY, Union Block.

FOR SALE—Sheep in quantities to suit. F. L. MARTIN, Crockery Store.

## ORDINANCES.

OF THE CITY OF COLORADO SPRINGS.

An ordinance amending an ordinance entitled an ordinance to restrain animals from running at large, chapter XIX of the published book of ordinances of the City of Colorado Springs.

Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Colorado Springs:

SECTION 1. That section nine (9) of said chapter nineteen (19) be, and it is so amended, by repealed and stricken out of said chapter.

Passed by the City Council this third day of December, A. D. 1877.

Attest: F. E. DOW, City Clerk.

WM. WAGNER, Mayor.

FOR KANSAS AND COLORADO take the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad, extending from Kansas City and Atchison, Mo., to the Missouri River, via Topeka, the capital of Kansas, through the little Arkansas Valley, to Pueblo, where direct connection is made with the Denver and Rio Grande Railway for Colorado Springs, Manitou, Denver, and Rio Grande. The track is expected to be of no more in the West, and the passenger equipment embraces all the modern improvements for comfort and safety. Through express trains leave every day, and the service is prompt, daily, and on the route from the State and can be traced to the Rocky Mountains, with Pullman Sleeping Cars attached. For fares, circulars and other information, send to

General Passenger Agent, Topeka, Kansas.

ATCHISON, TOPEKA AND SANTA FE RAILROAD.

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PROMENADE. FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, IN THE CITY HALL.

The following are some of the articles to be disposed of, and the best of the place named.

A very handsome Overcoat, the finest in the city, from the superior stock of Robbins & Dow, Huerafano street.

An elegant Garnet Belt, Dinner Coat and later Macker, at Morris' Jewelry store.

A China Set and Posen, at Tilton's.

Darke & Co. will show a No. 8 Cooking Stove and Pictures, from a stock which is the best in the market.

The price ranges from \$1.00 to \$5.00, to any figure you choose. Caps in endless variety.

These gentlemen will take pleasure in showing the articles to visitors.

THIS IS A RARE CHANCE FOR HOLIDAY PRESENTS.

Come Early—Come Often.

TESTER'S SALE.

WHEREAS, Lewis Watkins, of the county of El Paso and Territory (now State) of Colorado, by his certain deed of trust, dated September 10, 1873, and duly recorded in the office of the recorder of said county, on the 19th day of September, 1873, in book H, page 59, did convey to Wm. L. Young, as trustee, the following described real estate, situated in the town and city of Colorado Springs, El Paso County, Territory (now State) of Colorado, to wit: Lot number seventeen (17) in block number one hundred and twenty-one (121), and lot number sixteen (16) in block number one hundred and thirty-two (132), to secure the payment of the promissory note of even date of said deed, for the principal sum of five hundred (\$500) dollars payable one (1) year after the date thereof, with interest from date at the rate of twenty (20) per cent. per annum, payable monthly;

And whereas, said deed of trust does not contain a clause providing for the payment of said principal or interest, it should be lawful for the said Young, or the undersigned, as successor in trust, to sell said property at public sale in the manner therein indicated;

And whereas, it is further provided in said deed that in case of the death, resignation, removal from the Territory, or other failure or inability of the said Young to act, then Matt France should be and thereby was appointed and made successor in trust in said deed, with like power as aforesaid as the said Young had and received, a valid deed and the said premises in such an event should be conveyed in said Matt France accordingly;

And whereas, the said Young has removed from the county, and fails to act as trustee; and whereas default has been made in the payment of said principal and interest;

Now therefore, at the request of the legal holder of said note, and for the purpose of paying the same and interest, with costs of sale, the undersigned, under and by virtue of authority in him vested by the said deed of trust, will sell at public auction, on

Wednesday, December 12, 1877, at 10 o'clock A. M. of said day, at the front door of the court house (the same being the front door of the County Clerk's office) of El Paso County, State of Colorado, to the highest bidder, for cash, the following described premises, to wit: The full title, benefit, and equity of redemption of said Lewis Watkins, his heirs and assigns thereof, and will apply the proceeds, or so much thereof as may be necessary, as in said deed of trust provided.

Witness my hand and seal, this 10th day of November, 1877.

Colorado Springs, Nov. 10, 1877.

TESTER'S SALE.

WHEREAS, Channing Sweet, of El Paso County, and Territory (now State) of Colorado, by his certain deed of trust dated February 11, 1876, and duly recorded in the office of the recorder of said county, on the 12th day of February, 1876, in book F, page 42, did convey to the undersigned as trustee, the following described real estate, situated in the county of El Paso, and Territory (now State) of Colorado, to wit: The east four (4) acres of block No. two hundred and thirty-eight (238), in addition No. one (1) to the town of Colorado Springs, according to record, and lot of said addition, to secure the payment of his promissory note of even date of said deed therein described, for the principal sum of four hundred and thirty (\$430) dollars, payable six months after the date thereof, with interest at the rate of ten (10) per cent. per annum, payable monthly from date until paid, interest payable quarterly in advance, at the El Paso County Bank of Colorado Springs, Colorado;

And whereas, default has been made in the payment of said note, and interest due thereon, Now therefore, at the request of the legal holder of said note, and for the purpose of paying the same and interest, with costs of sale, the undersigned, under and by virtue of authority in him vested by the said deed of trust, will sell at public auction, on

Saturday, the 22nd day of December, 1877, at 2 o'clock P. M. of said day, at the front door of the County Clerk's office, of El Paso County, State of Colorado, to the highest bidder, for cash, the above described premises, and all the right title, benefit, and equity of redemption of the said Channing Sweet, his heirs and assigns thereof, and will apply the proceeds, or so much thereof as may be necessary as in said deed of trust provided.

Witness my hand and seal, this 17th day of November, 1877.

Colorado Springs, Nov. 17, 1877.

NOTICE OF SALE.

STATE OF COLORADO.

COUNTY OF EL PASO.

In the County Court of said County.

The Estate of George Hugi, deceased.

That Edward P. Hugi, son and heir of George Hugi, deceased, has gone out of the State of Colorado, and cannot be found therein, he, the said Edward P. Hugi, is hereby notified that on the 19th day of November, A.







Much delay, consequent upon accusations of fraud in some of the awards, has occurred in respect to the distribution of the limited amounts received from Venezuela, under the treaty of April 25th, 1866, applicable to the awards of the joint commission created by that treaty. So long as these matters are pending in Congress the executive cannot assume either to pass upon the objections presented or to distribute the funds received, and it is eminently desirable that some legislation should be taken, either concerning the awards to be final or providing some method for re-examination of the claims.



and South America and with the empire of Brazil have continued with serious change, further than the temporary interruption of diplomatic intercourse with Venezuela and with Guatemala. Amicable relations have already been restored with Venezuela, and it is not doubted that all grounds of misunderstanding with Guatemala will speedily be removed. From all these countries there are favorable indications of a disposition on the part of their governments and people to reciprocate our efforts in the direction of increased commercial intercourse. The government of the Samoan Islands has sent an envoy, in the person of its secretary of state, to invite the government of the United States to advise and protect their independence, to establish commercial relations with their people, and to assist them in their steps towards responsible and regular government. The inhabitants of these islands, having made considerable progress in Christian civilization and the development of trade, are doubtful of their ability to maintain peace and independence without the aid of some stronger power. The subject is deemed worthy of respectful attention, and the claims upon our assistance by these island communities will be fully considered.

#### THE LONG COMMERCIAL DEPRESSION

In the United States has directed attention to the subject of the possible increase of our foreign trade and the methods for its development, not only with Europe, but with other countries, and especially with the states and sovereignties of the western hemisphere. Instructions from the department of state were issued to the various diplomatic and consular officers of the government, asking them to devote attention to the question of methods by which trade between their respective countries and the United States would be most judiciously founded. In obedience to these instructions, examinations and reports upon this subject have been made by many of these officers and transmitted to the department, and the same are submitted to the consideration of congress.

#### TREASURY DEPARTMENT

The annual report of the secretary of the treasury on the state of finances presents important questions for the action of congress, upon some of which I have already remarked. The revenues of the government during the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1877, were \$200,000,000, and the total expenditures for the same period were \$235,000,000, leaving a surplus revenue of \$35,000,000. This has substantially supplied the requirements of the sinking fund for that year. The estimated revenues of the current year are \$255,000,000, and the estimated expenditures for the same period are \$232,480,043.72. If these estimates prove to be correct, there will be a surplus revenue of \$22,519,956.28, an amount nearly sufficient for the sinking fund for that year. The estimated revenues for the next fiscal year are \$269,250,000. It appears from the report that during the last fiscal year the revenues of the government compared with the previous year have largely decreased. This decrease, amounting to the sum of \$18,431,452.54, was mainly in customs duties, caused partly by a large falling off of the amount of imported dutiable goods, and partly by the general fall of prices in the markets of productions of such articles as pay ad valorem taxes. While this is felt injuriously in the diminution of the revenue, it has been accompanied with a very large increase of exportation. The total exports during the last fiscal year, including coin, has been \$658,637,457, and the imports have been \$492,007,540, leaving a balance of trade in favor of the United States amounting to \$166,630,917, the beneficial effects of which extend to all branches of business. The estimated revenue for the next fiscal year will impose upon congress the duty of strictly limiting appropriations, including the requisite sum for the maintenance of the sinking fund, within the aggregate estimated receipts, while the aggregate of taxes should not be increased. Amendments might be made to the revenue laws that would without diminishing the revenue relieve the people from unnecessary burdens. A tax on tea and coffee is shown by the experience not only of our own country, but of other countries, to be easily collected, without loss by undervaluation or fraud, and largely borne in the country of the production. A tax of ten cents per pound on coffee would produce a revenue exceeding twelve millions of dollars, and thus enable congress to repeal a multitude of annoying taxes yielding a revenue not exceeding that sum. The revenue system grew out of the necessities of the war, and most of the legislation imposing taxes upon domestic products under this system has been repealed. By the substitution of a tax on tea and coffee, all forms of internal taxation may be repealed, except that on whisky, spirits, tobacco and beer. Attention is also called to the necessity of enacting more vigorous laws for the protection of the revenue and for the punishment of frauds and smuggling. This can be best done by judicious provisions that will induce the disclosure of attempted fraud by under valuation and smuggling. All revenue laws should be simple in their provisions and easily understood, and, so far as practicable, the rates of taxation should be in the form of specific duties and not ad valorem, requiring the judgment of experienced men to ascertain values and exposing the revenue to the temptation of fraud.

#### MY ATTENTION HAS BEEN CALLED

During the recess of congress to abuses existing in the collection of the customs, and strenuous efforts have been made for their correction by executive orders. The recommendations submitted to the secretary of the treasury by a commission appointed to examine into the collection of custom duties at the port of New York contain many suggestions for the modification of custom laws, to which the attention of congress is invited.

#### THE PUBLIC CREDIT.

It is a matter of congratulation that notwithstanding the severe burdens caused by the war, the public faith with all creditors has been preserved, and as the result of this policy the public credit has continuously advanced and our public securities are regarded with the highest favor in the markets of the world. I trust that no act of the government will cast a shadow on its credit. The progress of refunding the public debt has been rapid and satisfactory. Under the contract existing when entered upon the discharge of the duties of

my office bonds bearing interest at the rate of four and a half per cent were being rapidly sold, and within three months the aggregate sales of these bonds had reached the sum of \$200,000,000. With my sanction the secretary of the treasury entered into a new contract for the sale of four per cent bonds, and within thirty days after the popular subscription for such bonds were opened, subscriptions were had amounting to \$75,496,553, which were paid for within ninety days after the date of subscription. By this process within but little more than one year the annual interest on the public debt was reduced in the sum of \$3,775,000. I recommend that suitable provision be made to enable the people to easily convert their savings into government securities as the best mode in which small savings may be well secured and held at a moderate interest. It is an object of public policy to retain among our own people the securities of the United States. In this way our country is guarded against their sudden return from foreign countries, caused by war or other disturbances beyond our limit.

#### THE COMMERCE OF THE UNITED STATES

with foreign nations, and especially the export of domestic productions, has of late years largely increased, but the greater portion of this trade is conducted in foreign vessels. The importance of enlarging our foreign trade, and especially by direct and speedy interchange with countries on this continent cannot be overestimated, and it is a matter of great moment that our own shipping interest should receive, to the utmost practicable extent, the benefit of our commerce with other lands. These considerations are forcibly urged by all the large commercial cities of the country, and public attention is generally and wisely attracted to the solution of the problem they present. It is not doubted that congress will take them up in the broadest spirit of liberality and respond to the public demand by practical legislation upon this subject.

#### THE REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR

shows that the army has been actively employed during the year, and has rendered very important service in repressing hostilities in the Indian country, and preserving peace and protecting life and property in the interior as well as along the Mexican border. A long and arduous campaign has been prosecuted with final complete success against a portion of the Nez Percés tribe of Indians. A full account of this campaign will be found in the report of the general of the army. It will be seen that in its course several battles were fought in which a number of gallant officers and men lost their lives. I join with the secretary of war and the general of the army in awarding to the officers and men employed in the long and toilsome pursuit, and in the final capture of the Indians, the honor and praise which is so justly their due.

#### THE VERY SERIOUS RIOTS

which occurred in several of the States in July last rendered necessary the employment of a considerable portion of the army to preserve the peace and maintain order. In the States of West Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania and Illinois these disturbances were so formidable as to defy the local and state authorities, and the national executive was called upon, in the mode provided by the constitution and laws, to furnish military aid. I am gratified to be able to state that the troops sent in response to these calls for aid in the suppression of domestic violence were able, by the influence of their presence in the disturbed regions, to preserve the peace and restore order without the use of force. In the discharge of this delicate and important duty both officers and men acted with great prudence and courage, and for their services deserve the thanks of the country.

The disturbances along the Rio Grande in Texas, to which I have already referred, have rendered necessary the constant employment of a military force in that vicinity. A full report of all recent military operations in that quarter has been transmitted to the house of representatives, in answer to a resolution of that body, and it will not, therefore, be necessary to enter into details. I regret to say that these lawless incursions into our territory by armed bands from the Mexican side of the line, for the purpose of robbery, have been of frequent occurrence, and in spite of the most vigorous efforts of the commander of our forces the marauders have generally succeeded in escaping into Mexico with their plunder. In May last I gave orders for the exercise of the utmost vigilance on the part of our troops for the suppression of these raiders and the punishment of guilty parties, as well as the recovery of property stolen by them. General Ord, commanding in Texas, was directed to invite the co-operation of the Mexican authorities in efforts to this end, and assure them that I was anxious to avoid giving the least offence to Mexico. At the same time he was directed to give notice of my determination to put an end to the invasion of our territory by lawless bands intent upon the plunder of our peaceful citizens, even if the punishment of outlaws should make the crossing of the border by our troops in their pursuit necessary. It is believed that this policy has had the effect to shock somewhat these depredations, and that with a considerable increase of our force upon that frontier, and the establishment of several additional military posts along the Rio Grande, or as more effective a guard that extensive border, peace may be preserved and the lives and property of citizens in Texas fully protected.

Prior to the first day of July last the army was, in accordance with law, reduced to the maximum of 23,000 enlisted men, being a reduction of 2,500 below the force previously authorized. This reduction was made as required by law, entirely from the infantry and artillery branches of the service, without any reduction of the cavalry. Under the law as it now stands, it is necessary that the cavalry regiments be recruited to one hundred men in each company for service on the Mexican and Indian frontiers. The necessary effect of this legislation is to reduce the infantry and artillery arms of the service below the number required for efficiency, and I am recommending that authority be given to recruit all companies of infantry to at least fifty men, and all batteries of artillery to at least fifty-five men, with power in case of an emergency to increase the former to one hundred and the latter to one hundred and twenty men each. I invite your special attention to the following recommendations of the secretary of war:

First, that provision be made for supplying to the army a more abundant and better supply of reading matter; second, that early action be taken by congress looking to a complete revision and republication of the army regulations; third, that section 1238 of the revised statutes, limiting the number of officers on the retired list, be repealed; fourth, that the claims arising under the act of July 4th, 1864, for supplies taken by the army during the war, be taken from the offices of the quartermaster and commissary generals, and transferred to the southern claims commission, or some other tribunal saving more time and better facilities for their prompt investigation and decision than are possessed by these officers; fifth, that congress provide for an annuity fund for the families of deceased soldiers, as recommended by the paymaster general of the army.

#### NAVAL AFFAIRS.

The report of the secretary of the navy shows that we have six squadrons now engaged in the protection of our foreign commerce and other duties pertaining to the naval service. The condition and operations of the department are also shown. The total expenditures for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1877, were \$1,007,739,431. There are unpaid claims against the department chargeable to the last year which are presented to the consideration of congress. By the report of the secretary the estimates for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 1878, are \$1,623,323,440, exclusive of the sum of \$2,314,231 allotted for new buildings, repairs and improvements at the several navy yards. The appropriations for the present fiscal year commencing July, 1877, are \$1,359,293,300. The amount drawn from the treasury from July 1, to November 1, 1877, is \$634,303,740, of which there is estimated to be yet available \$102,952,830, showing the amount of actual expenditure during the first four months of the present fiscal year to have been \$471,350,910.

#### THE REPORT OF THE POSTMASTER GENERAL

Contains a full and clear statement of the operations and condition of the postoffice department. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1877, including the receipts from the money order business and from official stamps and stamped envelopes, amounted to the sum of \$2,753,158,526. The additional sum of \$7,013,000 was realized from appropriations from the general treasury for various purposes, making the receipts from all sources, \$1,454,488,526. The total expenditures during the fiscal year amounted to \$3,348,682,244, leaving an excess of total receipts over total expenditures of \$1,066,855,282, and an excess of total expenditures over ordinary receipts of \$2,995,773,718. Deducting from the total receipts the sum of \$832,884.1 received from international money orders of the preceding fiscal year, and deducting from the total expenditures the sum of \$1,183,818.20 paid on liabilities incurred in the previous fiscal year, the expenditures and receipts pertaining to the business of the last fiscal year were as follows: Expenditures, \$3,322,504.24; receipts, ordinary, from money order business and for official postage stamps, \$2,748,822,342; excess of expenditures, \$485,418,042. The ordinary revenue of the post office department for the year ending June 30, 1879, are estimated at an increase of three per cent. over those of 1878, making \$2,903,409,828, and the expenditures for the same year are estimated at \$30,427,171, leaving an estimated deficiency for 1879, of \$739,330,202. Additional legislation recommended by the postmaster general for improvements of the mail service, and to protect the postal revenues from the abuses practiced under existing laws, is respectfully commended to the careful consideration of congress.

#### THE REPORT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

contains several suggestions as to the administration of justice, to which I invite your attention. The pressure of business in the supreme court and in certain circuit courts of the United States is now such that serious delays, to the great injury and even oppression of suitors, occur, and a remedy should be sought for this condition of affairs. Whether it will be found in the plan briefly sketched in the report—of increasing the number of judges of circuit courts, and, by means of this addition to the judicial force, creating an intermediate court of errors and appeals—or whether some other mode can be devised for obviating the difficulties which now exist, I leave to your mature consideration.

#### INDIAN AFFAIRS.

The present condition of the Indian tribes in the territory of the United States, and our relations with them, are fully set forth in the reports of the secretary of the interior and the commissioner of Indian affairs. After a series of most deplorable conflicts—the successful termination of which, while reflecting honor upon the brave soldiers who accomplished it, cannot lessen our regret at the occurrence—we are now at peace with all the Indian tribes on our border. To preserve that peace by a just and humane policy will be the object of my earnest endeavors. Whatever may be said of their character and savage propensities, the difficulties of introducing among them the habits of civilized life, and the obstacles they have offered to the progress of settling in certain parts of the country, the Indians are certainly entitled to our sympathy and to a conscientious respect on our part for their claims upon our sense of justice. They were the "aboriginal occupants of the land we now possess." They have been driven from place to place, and the "red man's money paid" to them, in some cases for what they called their own, has still left them poor. In many instances when they had settled on land, assigned to them by compact, they were rudely ousted off and thrust into the wilderness again. Many, if not most of our Indian wars, have had their origin in broken promises and acts of injustice upon our part, and the advance of the Indians in civilization has been slow because the treatment they received did not permit it to be faster and more generous. We cannot expect them to improve and to follow our path, unless we deal with them in respecting the rights they possess, and as men, instead of as a conquered and inferior race. In the reports of the secretary of the interior and of the commissioner of Indian Affairs, I commend to your consideration the following recommendations of the secretary of the interior:

faithful performance of our promises is the first condition of a good understanding with the Indians. I cannot too urgently recommend to congress that prompt and liberal provision be made for the conscientious fulfillment of all agreements entered into by the government with the Indians. To withhold the means necessary for the performance of a promise is always false economy, and is apt to prove disastrous in its consequences. Especial care is recommended to provide for Indians settled on their reservations with cattle and agricultural implements to aid them in whatever efforts they may make to support themselves, and by the establishment and main tenance of schools to bring them under the control of civilization. I see no reason why Indians who can give satisfactory proof of having by their own labor supported their families for a number of years, and who are willing to detach themselves from their tribal relations, should not be admitted to the benefits of the homestead act and the privileges of citizenship, and I recommend the passage of a law to that effect. It will be an act of justice as well as a measure of encouragement. Earnest efforts are being made to

#### PURIFY THE INDIAN SERVICE

so that every dollar appropriated by congress shall redound to the benefit of the Indians benefited. These efforts will have my firm support. With an improved service, and every possible encouragement held out to the Indians to better their condition and to elevate themselves in the scale of civilization, we may hope to do at the same time a good work for them and for ourselves.

#### TIMBER LANDS.

I invite the attention of congress to the importance of the statements and suggestions by the secretary of the interior concerning the depredations committed upon the timber lands of the United States, and the necessity for the preservation of forests. It is believed that the measures taken in pursuance of existing law to arrest the depredations will be entirely successful if congress, by an appropriation for that purpose, renders their continued enforcement possible. The experience of other nations teaches us that a country cannot be stripped of its forests with impunity, and we shall expose ourselves to the gravest consequences unless the wasteful and improvident manner in which the forests of the United States are destroyed be effectually checked. I earnestly recommend that the measures suggested by the secretary of the interior for the suppression of depredations on the public timber lands of the United States and for the preservation of forests be embodied in law, and that, considering the urgent necessity of enabling the people of certain states and territories to purchase timber from the public lands in a legal manner, which at present they cannot do, such a law be passed without avoidable delay.

#### DESERT LANDS.

I would also call the attention of congress to a statement made by the secretary of the interior concerning the disposition that might be made of the desert lands not irrigated west of the 100th meridian. These lands are practically unsaleable under existing laws, and the suggestion is worthy of consideration that a system of lease-hold tenure would make them a source of profit to the United States, while at the same time legalizing the business of cattle-raising which is at present carried on upon them.

#### THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE

contains the gratifying announcement of the extraordinary success which has rewarded the agricultural industry of the country for the past year. With the fair prices which obtain for the products of the soil, and especially for the surplus which our people have to export, we may confidently turn to this, the most important of all our resources, for the revival of the depressed industries of the country. The report shows our agricultural progress during the year, and contains a statement of the work done by this department for the advancement of agricultural industry, upon which the prosperity of our people so largely depends. Matters of information are included of great interest to all who seek by the experiences of others to improve their own methods of cultivation. The efforts of the department to increase the production of important articles of consumption will, it is hoped, improve the demand for labor and advance the business of the country, and eventually result in saving some of the many millions that are now annually paid to foreign nations for sugar and other staple products, which habitual use has made necessary to our domestic everyday life.

#### THE CENTENNIAL EXPOSITION.

The board on behalf of the United States executive departments at the international exposition of 1876 has concluded its labors. The final report of the board was transmitted to congress at the last session, and as these papers are understood to contain valuable information and will constitute the report emanating from the government on the subject of the exhibition, I invite your attention to the matter and recommend that the report be published for general information.

#### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

Congress is empowered by the constitution with the authority of executive legislation over the District of Columbia, in which the seat of government of the nation is located. The inhabitants of the district having no direct representation in congress are entitled to special consideration and care at the hands of the general government. The capital of the United States belongs to the nation, and it is natural that the American people should take pride in the seat of their national government and desire it to be an ornament to the country. Much has been done to render it healthful, convenient and attractive, but much remains to be done which its permanent inhabitants are not able and ought not to be expected to do. To impose upon them a large proportion of the cost required for public improvements which are in a great measure planned and executed for the convenience of the government, and the many thousands of visitors from all parts of the country who temporarily reside in the capital of the nation, is an evident injustice. Special attention is asked by the commissioners of the district in their report, which is herewith transmitted, to the importance of a permanent settlement of

congress of the financial relations between the United States and the district, involving the regular annual contribution by the United States of its just proportion of the expenses of the district government and of the outlay for all needed public improvements, and such measures of relief from the burden of taxation now resting on the people of the district as in the wisdom of congress may be deemed just. The report of the commissioners shows that the affairs of the district are in a condition as satisfactory as could be expected in view of the heavy debt resting upon it and its very limited means for necessary expenses. The debt of the district is as follows: Funded debt, \$3,379,691.96; 3-65 bonds, guaranteed by the United States, \$13,743,250—total bonded debt, \$22,122,99.96; to which should be added certain outstanding claims as explained in the report of the commissioners \$1,182,204.52, making the total debt of the district \$23,310,146.48. The commissioners also call attention to the importance of the improvement of the Potomac river, and the reclamation of the marshes bordering the city of Washington, and their views upon this subject are concurred in by the members of the board of health, whose report is also herewith transmitted. Both the commercial and sanitary interests of the district will be greatly promoted, I doubt not, by the improvement. Your attention is invited to the suggestion of the commissioners and of the board of health for the organization of a board of charities to have supervision and control of the disbursement of all money for charitable purposes from the district treasury. I desire also to ask your special attention to increasing the efficiency of the public schools of the district by supplemental aid from the national treasury. This is especially just, since so large a number attending the schools are children of employees of the government. I earnestly commend to your care the interests of the people of the district who are so intimately associated with the government establishments, and to whose enterprise the good order and attractiveness of the capital are largely due, and I ask your attention to the request of the commissioners for legislation in behalf of the interests entrusted to their care.

#### PUBLIC BUILDINGS, GROUNDS, ETC.

The appropriations asked for the care of reservations belonging to the government within the city by the commissioners of public buildings and grounds, are also commended to your favorable consideration. The report of the joint commission created by the act approved August 2, 1876, an act providing for the completion of the Washington monument, is herewith transmitted with accompanying documents. The board of engineer officers detailed to examine the monument, in compliance with the second section of the act, have reported that the foundation is insufficient. No authority exists for making the expenditure necessary to secure its stability, and I therefore recommend that the commission be authorized to expend such portion of the sum appropriated by the act as may be necessary for that purpose. The present unfinished condition of the monument, begun so long ago, is a reproach to the nation. It cannot be doubted that the patriotic sense of the country will warmly respond to such prompt provision as may be made for its completion at an early day, and I urge upon congress the propriety and necessity of immediate legislation for this purpose.

#### EDUCATION.

The wisdom of legislation on the part of congress in aid of the states for the education of the whole people in those branches of study which are taught in the common schools of the country is no longer a question. The intelligent judgment of the country goes still further, regarding it as also both constitutional and expedient for the general government to extend, to technical and higher education such aid as is deemed essential to the general welfare and to our due prominence among the enlightened and cultured nations of the world. The ultimate settlement of all questions of the future, whether of administration, of finance, or of true nationality of sentiment, depends upon the virtue and intelligence of the people. It is vain to hope for the success of a free government without the means of insuring the intelligence of those who are the source of power. No less than one-seventh of the entire voting population of our country are yet unable to read and write. It is encouraging to observe, in connection with the growth of fraternal feeling in those states in which slavery existed, evidences of increasing interest in universal education, and I shall be glad to give my approval to any appropriate measures which may be enacted by congress for the purpose of supplementing with national aid the local systems of education in those states and in all the states. And having already invited your attention to the needs of the District of Columbia with respect to its public school system, I here add that I believe it desirable—not so much with reference to the local wants of the district, but the great and lasting benefit of the entire country—that this system should be crowned with a university, in all respects in keeping with the national capital, and thereby realize the cherished hopes of Washington on this subject. I also earnestly commend the request of the regents of the Smithsonian Institution, that an adequate appropriation be made for the establishment and conduct of a national museum under their auspices. The request of providing for the preservation and growth of the library of congress is also one of national importance. As a depository of copyright publications and records this library has outgrown the provisions for its accommodation, and the erection on such site as the judgment of congress may approve, of a fire-proof library building to preserve the treasures and enlarge the usefulness of this valuable collection, is recommended. I recommend also such legislation as will render available and efficient for the purpose of instruction, so far as it is consistent with the public service, the cabinets or museums of invention, of surgery, of education, and of agriculture and other collections, the property of the national government. The capital of the nation should be something more than a mere political center. We should avail ourselves of all the opportunities which Providence has here placed at our command, to promote the general intelligence of the people and to increase the conditions most favorable to the success and perpetuity of our institutions.

Signed,

A. B. EAYRE.

December 4, 1877.